

OCT 13 1965

STATINTL

## LBJ Aid Scores Fulbright on Santo

By MICHAEL O'NEILL

Washington, Oct. 12 (NEWS Bureau)—The Johnson Administration delivered a full-scale counterattack today against Sen. J. William Fulbright's recent harsh criticism of its handling of the Dominican crisis.

Undersecretary of State Thomas C. Mann, one of President Johnson's top Latin advisers, slammed Fulbright's argument that the Administration overestimated the Communist threat, then overreacted to it.

On the contrary, Mann declared, there was a "clear and present danger of the forcible seizure of power by the Communists." In fact, he said, the government had evidence that Communist forces were actually stronger than those of the non-Communist rebels.

Mann vehemently denied Fulbright's charge that the desire to save lives was more a "pretext" than a reason for the use of American troops. He said this was the real reason when the troops were first sent in, that the Communist threat did not become a motive until a day later when the "clear and imminent peril" became apparent.

"Much of the confusion," Mann said, . . . "derives from attempts to lift official statements out of



Thomas C. Mann

their time context. . . . These confusions have not been helpful to the American states in their efforts to find solutions to delicate and difficult problems."

Johnson's aids have made no secret of the fact that their chief was furious Sept. 15 when Fulbright delivered his slashing attack not only on the Dominican performance but on the Administration's whole approach to Latin policy.

The decision was to deliver a formal, but restrained rebuttal. Mann did the honors today in a detailed major foreign policy address to the Inter-American Press Association meeting in San Diego, Calif. He had wanted to

hit Fulbright even harder, it was learned, but was persuaded by his superiors to keep his statement in low key.

Nevertheless, the speech represents the most significant statement to date of Administration thinking on Latin America and how to deal with the forces of reform and Communism.

Among other things, Mann said the U.S. continues to subscribe to non-intervention. But he said Communist subversion is a real problem, particularly for fragile, developing countries, and must be countered.

He rejected Fulbright's thesis that reform movements go arm in arm with Communist support. He said the reformers who have contributed most to social progress have understood "that the Communist danger is not met by good work alone." Nor is

Communist participation necessary to reforms, he insisted.

"We do not really have to choose between reaction and leftist extremism," Mann said.